

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1 and 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (currently amended) ~~An improved~~ A system for replacing human ancillary medical assistance needed to prompt, encourage and guide a blind as well as a sighted user in relationship to utilization of medical apparatuses, said system comprising:

a medical apparatus used for a particular medical or therapeutic function, as needed, of a type that conventionally requires ~~requiring~~ live human ancillary medical assistance to ensure, prompt, inspire, entice, command, respond, inform or encourage recommended or required therapeutic use by a patient using said medical apparatus to prompt, encourage, give measurements or guide a user in connection with utilization of said medical apparatus or in correlation with any medical procedure working in synthesis with said medical apparatus;

a self-contained electronic assembly for replacing live human ancillary medical assistance by automatically verbally prompting or guiding a blind or sighted user to initiate use of the medical apparatus, as needed, and by automatically providing verbal encouragement and guidance to the user when utilizing said medical apparatus, when required, without live human ancillary medical assistance being given for such purposes, said self-contained electronic assembly comprising a single microcontroller unit controlled by a functional program and an audio storage unit, said audio storage unit having at least one stored audible verbal message for prompting and initiating use or providing understanding for the user when utilizing the medical apparatus, as needed, and at least one stored audible verbal message for

guiding the user's use of, ~~enticing, commanding, inspiring, responding, informing or the patient to use~~ said medical apparatus ~~or which provides therapeutic guidance to the patient regarding use of the medical apparatus;~~ wherein the functional program ~~controls~~ instructs the single microcontroller unit when required regarding the operation of said electronic assembly, including the function of prompting, encouraging and guiding messages for the user, thus, replacing and eliminates the need for ancillary medical assistance when the user is utilizing therapeutically guiding the patient to use said medical apparatus;

means for powering said electronic assembly; and

a speaker in communication with said electronic assembly for receiving one of the ~~said at least one~~ stored audible verbal message from said audio storage unit upon direction from said microcontroller unit and transmitting the at least one stored audible verbal message directly to the patient user to encourage compliance with the ~~therapeutic~~ guidelines for utilization of said medical apparatus as needed by the patient user without the necessity of having a live human ancillary medical assistant instruct or encourage present with the patient user for such purposes.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The ~~improved medical apparatus~~ system of claim 3 wherein said self-contained electronic assembly further including means for verbally indicating to the patient user a measurement or result achieved by the patient user from the performance of the required or recommended therapeutic procedure with said medical apparatus; wherein the measurement or result achieved is calculated through mathematical and logic calculations performed by said single microcontroller unit based on instructions received from the functional program.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The system ~~improved medical~~

~~apparatus~~ of claim 4 wherein said means for verbally indicating having means for converting digital audio data into continuous analog signal ~~through regeneration~~.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The system ~~improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 4 wherein said means for verbally indicating comprising:

means for receiving analog signals relating to the user's performance with the medical apparatus;

a level setting unit providing a performance level or goal for said medical apparatus; and

means for converting the receiving analog signals from said medical apparatus into digital data;

wherein an encouragement message sent from audio storage unit to the speaker by direction of the single microcontroller is based on the analog signal received from said medical apparatus and the performance level or goal provided by the level setting unit.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The system ~~improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 6 wherein said means for receiving is a gauge provided on said medical apparatus and a gauge connector in communication with the gauge and a signal input unit of said single microcontroller unit.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The system ~~improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 7 wherein said level setting unit in communication with said signal input unit.

Claim 9 (currently amended) (currently amended) The system ~~improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 3 wherein said single microcontroller unit directs the audio storage unit to send a first verbal message to the speaker in order to prompt the user to initiate use of said medical apparatus device ~~by the user as needed in relationship to said medical apparatus~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The system ~~improved medical~~

~~apparatus~~ of claim 9 wherein ~~in relationship to said medical apparatus being used for powering said electronic assembly,~~ said self-contained electronic assembly having a timing device for determining when to automatically send said at least one stored verbal message from said audio storage unit to said speaker in order to prompt, ~~remind, entice, inspire or encourage~~ the patient user to initiate use of said medical apparatus as needed in relationship to said medical function of said medical apparatus as needed ~~to perform the required procedure as therapeutically required or recommended for said medical apparatus.~~

Claim 11 (currently amended) The ~~system improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 10 wherein said single microcontroller unit is programmed to direct the audio storage unit of output signals at a set time to send a first verbal message to the speaker in order to prompt the user to initiate use of said medical apparatus ~~device by the user~~ from the audio response relayed from a Signal Output Unit of the electronic assembly at a rate appropriate for the regeneration of an audible response from the audio data.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The ~~system improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 9 wherein said single microcontroller unit continues to direct the audio storage unit to send the first verbal message or another verbal message to the speaker on a spaced apart continuous basis until said single microcontroller unit learns that the user has ~~begun to perform~~ initiated performance of the required procedure with said medical apparatus.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The ~~system improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 9 wherein after the required procedure has been performed by the user said single microcontroller unit is programmed to wait for a predetermined therapeutic time period before automatically directing said audio storage unit to send a next initial verbal prompting message to the user for prompting

the user to ~~perform~~ initiate another required procedure; wherein as needed the user is prompted and encouraged to perform multiple required procedures with said medical apparatus device being employed during a single day period as therapeutically required or recommended for said medical apparatus.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The ~~system improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 3 ~~wherein said self-contained electronic assembly~~ further comprising means for verbally indicating comprising:

means for determining a measurement or result achieved by the user from performing the required procedure with said medical apparatus as needed; and

one or more verbal encouragement messages stored within said audio storage unit;

~~an audio response unit;~~

~~means for powering said audio response unit; and~~

~~a speaker in communication with said audio response unit;~~
~~and~~

wherein a signal corresponding to the measurement or result achieved by the user is sent by said means for determining to the audio ~~response~~ storage unit which provides ~~generates~~ an appropriate verbal encouraging or guiding message which is sent to the speaker to verbally indicate to the user the measurement or result determined and the encouraging or guiding message also ~~sends a verbal functional message appropriate for the measurement or result determined according to a performance level or goal for the medical apparatus.~~

Claim 15 (currently amended) The ~~system improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 14 wherein said self-contained electronic assembly further comprising a timer, ~~controlled by a functional program of said microcontroller unit,~~ for dictating when audio messages are sent to the speaker by said audio response unit

~~based on instructions contained within the functional program* wherein the functional program controls a timing unit to allow the appropriate time for the therapeutic use of said medical apparatus according to said medical apparatus.~~

Claim 16 (currently amended) The ~~system improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 15 wherein the verbal ~~encouragement encouraging or guiding~~ message sent is chosen from a plurality of verbal messages stored in said audio data message storage unit; wherein, in relationship to the functional program stored within the microcontroller unit that defines the behavior of said medical apparatus in accordance to a defined function, at least one of the plurality of verbal ~~encouragement encouraging or guiding~~ messages is used where the measurement or result determined is lower than the target measurement and at least one of the plurality of verbal encouragement messages is used where the measurement or result determined is higher than the target measurement; wherein the plurality of verbal messages allow an appropriate verbal message to be selected, according to the user's measurement or result performance of the required procedure according to said medical apparatus.

Claim 17 (currently amended) ~~An improved A system for replacing human ancillary medical assistance needed to prompt, encourage and guide a blind or sighted user with the use of a medical apparatus, said system comprising:~~

a medical apparatus having a particular medical or therapeutic function and of a type that conventionally requires live human ancillary medical assistance ~~to ensure or encourage recommended use of said medical apparatus by a patient to prompt, encourage and guide a blind or sighted user in connection with the use of said medical apparatus or in correlation with any medical procedure working in synthesis with said medical apparatus; and~~

a self-contained means for replacing live human ancillary medical assistance by automatically verbally prompting the patient user without live human ancillary medical assistance being given to initiate use of said medical apparatus to perform a medical procedure achieved through the use of said medical apparatus without having to have a live human ancillary medical assistant physically instructing or encouraging present with the user patient;

wherein said means for replacing live human ancillary medical assistance by automatically verbally prompting disposed ~~within or attached to a housing of said medical apparatus or disposed within its own housing separate from said medical apparatus.~~

Claim 18 (currently amended) The ~~system improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 17 ~~wherein said means for verbally prompting is either disposed within or attached to said housing of said medical apparatus, and said improved medical apparatus~~ further comprising means for verbally indicating and verbally responding accordingly to a patient user based on a measurement or result achieved by the patient user from the user's patient's performance of the required procedure and without the necessity of a live human ancillary medical assistant, said means for verbally indicating and verbally responding disposed ~~or attached to a same~~ within the housing as said means for verbally prompting.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The ~~system improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 18 wherein said means for verbally indicating comprising:

means for determining a measurement or result achieved by the patient user from performing the required procedure with said medical apparatus;

an audio response unit;

means for converting digital data into analog through regeneration;

a signal output unit in communication with said means for converting;

wherein audio data is successively relayed to the Signal Output unit at a rate appropriate for the regeneration of the audible response according to said medical apparatus;

means for powering said audio response unit; and

a speaker in communication with said signal output unit;

wherein an output signal corresponding to the measurement or result achieved by the patient user is sent by said means for determining to the audio response unit which provides ~~generates~~ a verbal message relayed from stored audio data which is sent to the speaker to verbally indicate to the patient user said measurement or result achieved and also sends a verbal functional encouragement message appropriate for the measurement or result determined according to the ~~therapeutic~~ function of said medical apparatus as needed.

Claim 20 (currently amended) The system ~~improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 19 wherein said audio response unit including an audio message storage unit which sends a the verbal encouragement message to the speaker based on a comparison of the measurement or result achieved to a target measurement or result in relationship to said medical apparatus as needed.

Claim 21 (currently amended) The system ~~improved medical apparatus~~ of claim 19 wherein the verbal encouragement message sent is chosen from a plurality of verbal messages stored in the audio message storage unit; wherein at least one of the plurality of verbal encouragement messages is used where the measurement or result determined is lower than the target measurement or result and at least one of the plurality of verbal encouragement messages is used where the measurement or result determined is

higher than the target measurement or result; wherein the plurality of verbal messages allow an appropriate verbal message to be selected according to the ~~patient's~~ user's measurement or result performance of the required procedure according to said medical apparatus as needed.

Claim 22 (currently amended) An automated verbal prompting and indication device for a medical apparatus to be used by a blind as well as a sighted user, said medical apparatus of a type that conventionally requires live human ancillary medical assistance to ensure use is initiated by the blind as well as the sighted user in order ~~or~~ to prompt encourage give measurements or guide use of said medical apparatus as needed, said automated prompting device comprising:

means for replacing live human ancillary medical assistance by automatically verbally prompting a ~~patient~~ user without live human ancillary medical assistance to initiate use as needed for said medical apparatus to ~~perform a required~~ perform or guide a ~~or~~ recommended procedure achieved through utilization ~~the use~~ of said medical apparatus, without having to have a live human ancillary medical assistant physically instruct, encourage or provide information to ~~present with the user patient~~; wherein said verbal prompting is achieved without instructions, encouragement or information about the medical apparatus from a live human ancillary medical assistant or from a remote location ~~the physical presence of an ancillary medical assistant with the patient~~; and

means for verbally indicating a response as needed and verbally responding accordingly to utilization of said medical apparatus a ~~patient~~ when based on a measurement or result being achieved by the user ~~patient~~ from the user's performance of the procedure according to said medical apparatus and without ~~the physical presence of an~~ encouragement or instructions from a live

human ancillary medical assistant or from a remote location with the patient.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The automated verbal prompting and indication device of claim 22 wherein said means for verbally prompting ~~comprises an~~ is part of a self-contained electronic assembly in communication with a speaker and means for powering said electronic assembly, said electronic assembly comprising a single microcontroller unit and an audio storage unit, said audio storage unit having at least one stored verbal message for prompting the user patient to initiate use of said medical apparatus as needed to perform the required procedure; wherein said single microcontroller unit automatically directs the audio storage unit to send a first verbal message to the speaker in order to prompt the user to initiate use of said medical apparatus ~~device~~ by the user patient.

Claim 24 (currently amended) The automated verbal prompting and indication device of claim 23 wherein after the required procedure has been performed by the user patient said microcontroller unit is programmed to wait for a predetermined ~~therapeutic~~ time period, as needed, before directing said audio storage unit to send a next verbal prompting message to the user patient for prompting the user patient to perform initiate another required procedure; wherein the user patient is automatically encouraged by said electronic assembly communicating through the speaker to perform multiple required procedures with said medical apparatus ~~device~~ during a single day period as ~~therapeutically~~ required or recommended without having a live human ancillary medical assistant present or without having to receive a communication from a remote location.

Claim 25 (currently amended) The automated verbal prompting and indication device of claim 22 wherein said means for verbally indicating comprising:

means for determining a measurement or result achieved by the user from performing the required procedure with said medical apparatus;

an audio response unit;

means for powering said audio response unit; and

a speaker in communication with said audio response unit;

wherein a signal corresponding to the measurement or result achieved by the user is sent by said means for determining to the audio response unit which generates a verbal message which is sent to the speaker to verbally indicate to the user said measurement or result achieved and also sends a verbal functional message appropriate for the measurement or result determined in accordance with particular guidelines for said medical apparatus.

Claim 26 (currently amended) The automated verbal prompting and indication device of claim 25 wherein said audio response unit including an audio message storage unit which sends a verbal encouragement message to the speaker based on a comparison of the measurement or result achieved to a ~~target~~ measurement or result in accordance with said medical apparatus as needed.

Claim 27 (currently amended) The automated verbal prompting and indication device of claim 26 wherein the verbal encouragement message sent is chosen from a plurality of verbal messages stored in the audio message storage unit; wherein at least one of the plurality of verbal encouragement messages is used where the measurement or result determined is lower than the target measurement or result and at least one of the plurality of verbal encouragement messages is used where the measurement or result determined is higher than the target measurement or result; wherein the plurality of verbal messages allow an appropriate verbal message to be selected according to the user's measurement or result performance of the required procedure as needed according to said medical apparatus.

Claim 28 (previously presented) The automated verbal prompting and indication device of claim 22 further comprising means for storing information relating to the user ~~patient's~~ usage of said medical apparatus or to measurements or results achieved by the user ~~patient~~ from use of said medical apparatus as needed.

Claim 29 (cancelled).

Claim 30 (previously presented) The automated verbal prompting and indication device of claim 28 for comprising means for transmitting the stored information to a retrieving location that is remote to whatever current location of said medical apparatus.

Claim 31 (cancelled).

Claim 32 (new) The system of claim 3 wherein said medical apparatus contained within a first housing and said self-contained electronic assembly contained within a separate second housing.

Claim 33 (new) The system of claim 3 wherein said medical apparatus and said self-contained electronic assembly contained within a single housing.

Claim 34 (new) The system of claim 17 wherein said medical apparatus contained within a second housing which is separate from the housing for said means for automatically verbally prompting.

Claim 35 (new) The system of claim 17 wherein said housing containing said means for automatically verbally prompting also containing said medical apparatus.

Claim 36 (new) The automated verbal prompting and indication device of claim 22 further comprising a housing containing both said means for automatically verbally prompting and said means for verbally indicating and verbally responding.